

ABSTRACT

5 A method of translating object-oriented computer programs into native
code includes a two-step translation process, first by a jcode translator (212)
into a machine-independent virtual processor code (213), and then by a native
translator (214) into native code (230). In a heterogeneous multiprocessor
environment, the machine-independent part of the translation can be carried out
10 at the central server, with machine-independent virtual processor code being
distributed as required to the individual clients. Each client then needs to carry
just a small processor-dependent native translator (214) with which it completes
the conversion into native code. The invention finds particular application in
embedded systems, and particularly in heterogeneous-processor systems such as
15 mobile phone networks.